

# Home Safety Tips

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## “LEARNING FROM THE BIG ONES”



As Southern Californians, when we talk about waiting for “The Big One” to strike, we’re usually referring to the long-overdue, major earthquake on the San Andreas Fault that scientists have been predicting for years.

In a recent presentation before a capacity crowd at the Ridgecrest Intermediate School auditorium, however, world-famous seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones argued that the modern world has been shaped by humans’ evolving understanding of and response to a series of “big ones” over the past 2,000 years. These disasters—the root of the word means “ill-starred”—have included:

- The eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in the first century AD;
- The 1755 Lisbon earthquake and fire; and,
- The great floods in the central valley of California in 1861.

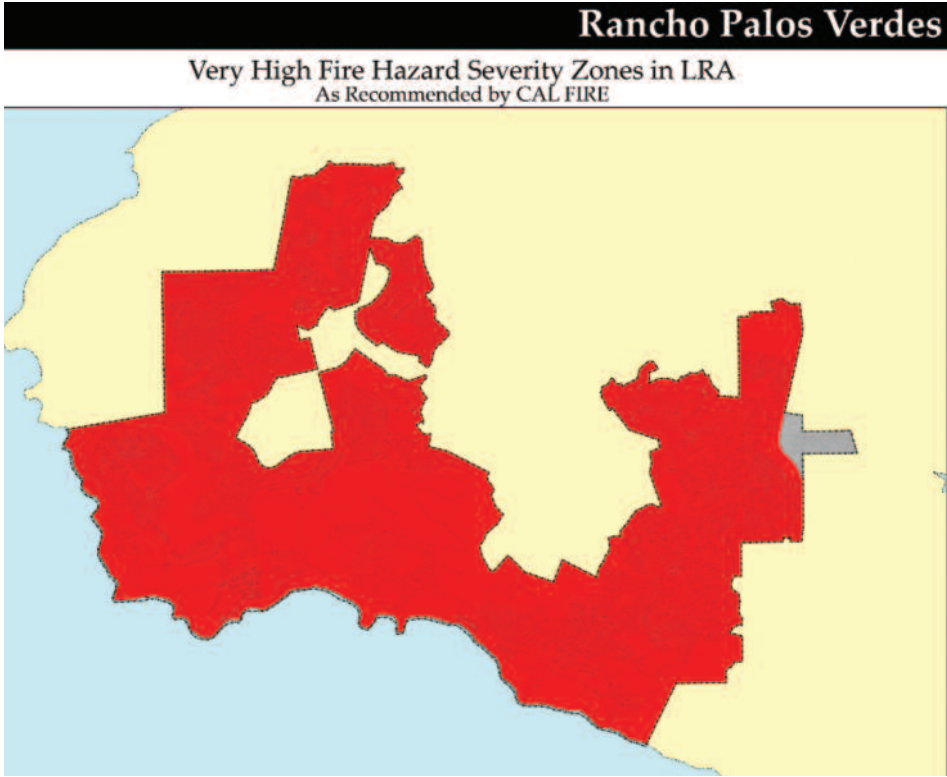
Dr. Jones shared stories of these famous and little-known disasters, and included insights into how Peninsula residents can and should be prepared to respond to and recover from the threat of disasters posed by the hazards that are unique to our area, particularly the risk of wildfire and earthquake.

### WILDFIRE IS THE GREATEST RISK ON THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

As Dr. Jones alluded to in her recent presentation, wildfire poses the greatest risk to life and property on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Maps prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) depict nearly the entire City of Rancho Palos Verdes as falling within a Very High Fire Hazards Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). The only area excluded from the VHFHSZ is the area east of Western Avenue, shaded gray on the map below. It should also be noted that the entirety of the other Peninsula cities—Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates—are also in the VHFHSZ.



Oct. 2017 Fire Near RPV City Hall



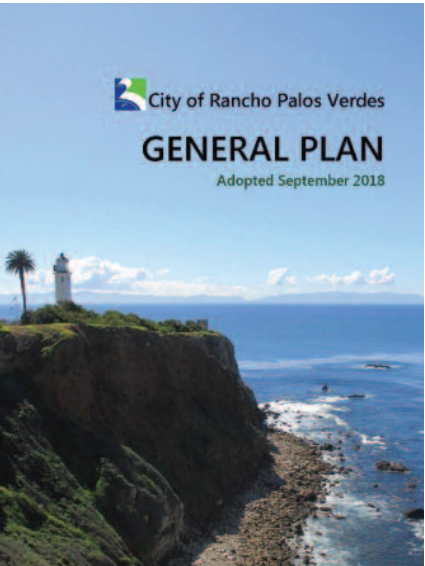
## COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

The City Council of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes formally re-organized at its December 4, 2018, meeting as follows:

<b>Mayor</b>	Jerry V. Duhovic
<b>Mayor Pro Tem</b>	John Cruikshank
<b>Councilmember</b>	Eric Alegria
<b>Councilmember</b>	Susan Brooks
<b>Councilmember</b>	Ken Dyda

## IN THE ZONE: GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

In September, the City Council approved an updated General Plan and Land Use Map which sets the goals and policies for future development in the City and designates the locations for specific uses. This document is on the City's website: <http://www.rpvca.gov/356/General-Plan-Update>.



As a result of this update and recognizing that it's been nearly two decades since the last comprehensive update, the City Council initiated the process to conduct a comprehensive update to the Zoning Code and Zoning Map in November. The City's Zoning Code controls the physical development of land and the uses based on zoning districts (i.e., residential, industrial, recreational, or commercial). The City's Zoning Map serves as an extension of the Zoning Code, in that the map identifies the various zoning districts throughout the City.



The proposed update will not include changes to certain development standards enacted by the voters associated with Proposition M, nor will it include substantive changes to regulations dealing with height, lot coverage, and setback calculations, or development standards that will result in non-conforming uses or structures. Rather, the comprehensive update to the Zoning Code and Zoning Map is

intended to create a user-friendly document that is relevant to the current development trends and is consistent with the City's recently updated General Plan Map. This process is anticipated to take approximately two years to complete.

To stay informed and be a part of the process, a homepage has been launched on the City's website: (<http://www.rpvca.gov/1160/Zoning-MapCode-Update>) dedicated to the comprehensive Zoning Code/Map update, as well as a listserv to receive periodic updates and public notification.

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ECR-WSS

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275



# CRIME BUSTER CORNER



## THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Gift yourself peace of mind by downloading Ring's **free** app "Neighbors" on your smart device such as your phone or tablet. All RPV residents can use the app regardless if you have a Ring device installed at your home or not.



The Neighbors app allows you to virtually connect with your neighbors in real-time to help create safer neighborhoods. You and your neighbors can anonymously share crime and safety alerts such as videos and messages. If you, for example, observe suspicious activity at your home or neighborhood, you can post an alert using the app.

Download the app by using your smart phone to scan the QR code or go to the following link: <https://go.onelink.me/v1xd/b8697be2>.

As the holiday season approaches, pay it forward and encourage neighbors to download the app today!

## HOME SWEET HOME

How secure is your home? Contact the Lomita Sheriff's Station to request a home safety audit at 310.539.1661. The Sheriff's Station can assist RPV residents with assessing your home for issues such as landscaping, lighting, and windows.

## Tips to Keep Your Home Safe



1. Set lights, indoor and outdoor, on an automatic timer.

2. Set your alarm system and/or security devices.

3. Ask a trusted neighbor to collect packages, newspaper, and mail so it doesn't pile up. Alternatively, arrange for USPS to hold mail delivery by visiting <https://holdmail.usps.com/holdmail/>.

4. Lock all doors including sliding, back, patio and garage doors, and windows. Check windows to ensure that hardware is secure.

5. Use the Ring Neighbors app to stay in contact and receive real-time notifications from neighbors.

6. Do NOT advertise information on social media. If information gets into the wrong hands, your home could become a target.

## TIS' THE SEASON...FOR THEFT PREVENTION

If you plan to travel during the holiday season, be proactive to keep your home safe. Take advantage of the City's vacation security camera loaner program and borrow a Ring Spotlight Cam to use inside your home while away. You will be able to monitor your home via your smart device. The program is available to all RPV residents and is FREE! To learn more, visit the city website at <http://www.rpvca.gov/1118/Vacation-Security-Camera-Loaner-Program> or contact Jacqueline Ruiz, Administrative Analyst in the City Manager's office, at 310.544.5305 or at [jruiz@rpvca.gov](mailto:jruiz@rpvca.gov).



### Beware of Porch Pirates

As the holiday season approaches, residents should be alert for package thefts and take proactive steps to avoid becoming a victim of a porch pirate.

Pick up your delivered package(s) as soon as possible.

Sign up for text based delivery notifications through your online retailer to monitor your delivery. Additionally, use your security device, such as the Ring Video Doorbell, to monitor delivery.

If you are not home, ask a trusted neighbor to pick up delivered packages.

## FAREWELL TO CAPTAIN DAN BERINGER

We wish Captain Dan Beringer a happy retirement! RPV thanks Captain Beringer for his vision, dedication, and over 30 years of service. He was instrumental in helping the city execute many of the new technology-based public safety programs including the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras.

He served as Captain for the Lomita Sheriff's Station since 2016. The Lomita Sheriff's Station serves the Peninsula Region cities as well as the City of Lomita and the unincorporated areas of Academy Hill and Westfield.

## UPDATE ON PART I CRIME STATS

Part I crime stats continue to decline in RPV! Let's keep up the good work and continue to practice public safety prevention tips. With the holiday season upon it is even more important to be alert and use daily car theft and home burglary prevention tips.

# ELECTRICITY: IT'S OUTTA SIGHT!

## UNDERGROUNDING UTILITY LINES

The replacement and under-grounding of existing overhead utility lines has been approved for two sections of road in Rancho Palos Verdes: A portion of Palos Verdes Drive South from La Rotonda Drive to the eastern City border and on Crenshaw Boulevard from Crest Road to the 3rd pole south of Valley View Road. These areas were designated as priority locations for undergrounding utilities in a 2016 feasibility study. City Staff coordinated the planned replacement of these utilities in conjunction with Southern California Edison (SCE), under their Rule 20A program, which earmarks a certain amount of funds for public projects where a City is the applicant. The scheduled completion date is summer 2019.



Hawthorne Blvd Undergrounding Project 1990

At the suggestion of Councilman John Cruikshank and with the concurrence of the City Council, City Staff will be presenting options to the City Council in the upcoming months on ways to expand undergrounding utilities throughout more of the City. Undergrounding utilities is important not only in terms of aesthetics, but as one part of the City's plan to mitigate the risk of fires. There are many causes for wildfires, some man-made and some not. Similar to how brush clearing is a mechanism to reduce risk, so is the undergrounding of utilities a means to reduce the risk of fires from electrical sources.

## HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD ARTERIAL WALL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT



In an effort to help beautify the City's arterial streets, the City embarked on a project to remove the deteriorated and unsafe chain link fences and pilasters along Hawthorne Boulevard. This included vegetation and debris eroding into the public right-of-way. The project stretched along Hawthorne Boulevard from Indian Valley Road to the northerly City limits adjacent to the City of Rolling Hills Estates. It was successfully completed in October 2018, where more than 5,245 linear feet of deteriorated chain link fence and 19 pilasters were removed. Only properties who had chosen to participate in the City's Arterial Fences and Wall Program were involved.

## GOING PAPERLESS: DIGITAL PLAN COPIES ONLY



Beginning January 1, 2019, the Planning Division will only accept digital copies of plans. Please bring your digital copies on a CD or flash drive so that they can be uploaded into the City's database at the time of submittal. Subsequent submittals of revised plans may be emailed directly to the Project Planner. Contact the Planning Division at 310.544.5228 [planning@rpvca.gov](mailto:planning@rpvca.gov) with any questions.

# WHALE OF A DAY

Saturday, April 13th



## Save the Date!



## GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS: ANNUAL BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL



President Calvin Coolidge said that the "Business of America is business" and Rancho Palos Verdes is no exception. While primarily a residential community, there are currently over 1,900 licensed businesses operating in the City. All business activity performed within the City requires the business owner to pay a business license tax. This includes any business activity occurring within a residential area (e.g. home office).

Additionally, service providers such as contractors, gardeners, or handymen, whether based in the City or not, are also required to be licensed if they provide services within the City.

Business license applications are due prior to commencing operations and expire each December 31st. In mid-December, City staff will mail 2019 business license renewal applications to all currently licensed businesses. This application should be completed and returned with payment to City Hall by January 31, 2019. Upon receiving a completed renewal application and license tax, a 2019 Business Tax Certificate will be mailed to the business. Penalties will be assessed on any license application received on or after February 1, 2019, at 5% for each month delinquent up to 50% of the total license tax. No extensions or waivers of the penalty amount will be granted.

### HOW DO I COMPLETE A BUSINESS APPLICATION?

The application is easy, takes only minutes to finish, and can be completed in one of three ways:

1. **Online:** You can file on-line by going to the City's website at <https://rpvpay.com/businesslicense/>. Then, simply follow the step by step instructions.
2. **By Mail:** You can mail in your application and payment by downloading the application on the City's website at <http://www.rpvca.gov/288/Business-License-Information>.
3. **In Person:** You can also complete your license application in person at City Hall, within the Community Development Department or mail it to:

Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall  
Attention: Business License Coordinator  
30940 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Questions: contact the Business License Coordinator at 310.544.5301. For additional information refer to Chapter 5.04 of the City's Municipal Code or visit the City of Rancho Palos Verdes website. Whether you're an established enterprise or a hopeful start-up, thanks for your business - we appreciate it!

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY - RANCHO PALOS VERDES NCCP/HCP



The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is seeking approval of its Natural Communities Conservation Plan by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (the Wildlife Agencies). The purpose of the NCCP/HCP is to preserve contiguous open space areas for species preservation while allowing compatible economic growth. The City's NCCP/HCP area is contiguous with the City boundary, and the

Plan sets aside Rancho Palos Verdes' 1,400-acre Palos Verdes Nature Preserve for conservation in perpetuity. The Draft Plan was made available on the Federal Register starting on Wednesday, October 31, 2018, and will undergo a public comment period until December 31, 2018.

The Notice of Availability for the Plan can be viewed online by using the following link: <http://bit.ly/RPVNCCPHCP>. The NCCP/HCP documents can be viewed by going to [www.rpvca.gov/nccp](http://www.rpvca.gov/nccp). Hard copies of the Plan are available for public review at the following locations:

- Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall, 30940 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
- Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, 916 Silver Spur Rd. #207, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Those who want to submit comments to the Wildlife Agencies can do so by one of the following methods:

- **Email:** [fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov](mailto:fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov); please include "City of RPV NCCP/HCP" in the subject line.
- **U.S. Mail:** Karen Goebel, Attn: City of RPV NCCP/HCP  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250,  
Carlsbad, CA 92008
- **Telephone:** Karen Goebel, 760-431-9440.

If approved, by the Wildlife Agencies, the NCCP/HCP will be brought back to the City Council for adoption in early 2019. Inquiries should be directed to Administrative Analyst/Open Space Manager Katie Lozano at 310.544.5267 or [trails@rpvca.gov](mailto:trails@rpvca.gov).

Interested in Serving on  
a City Committee/Commission?

Current vacancies in:

**Planning Commission**  
**Finance Advisory Committee**  
**Traffic Safety Committee**  
**Emergency Preparedness Committee**  
**Infrastructure Management Advisory Committee**

For an application contact 310.544.5217 or go to  
<http://www.rpvca.gov/150/Advisory-Board-Recruitment>

Apply by 4:30pm  
on Friday,  
December 21st.



## GREEN CORNER



### RPV SHINES AN ENVIRONMENTAL BEACON

The City of RPV was awarded multiple 2018 Beacon and Beacon Spotlight awards. The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. Participants pursue sustainability activities and demonstrate measurable reductions in electricity, natural gas and greenhouse gas emissions.



#### Agency Energy Savings:

Gold---10% Energy Savings 2005-2018

#### Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions:

Silver 8% Reduction 2005-2012

#### Sustainability Best Practices:

Silver (Multiple areas including Energy efficiency, water and wastewater systems, waste reductions & recycling)

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



Recycling your Christmas tree is easy. Remove the base, ornaments, tinsel and garland. Then leave your Christmas tree at the curb on your regular collection day between December 26 and January 15. No need to cut the tree into smaller pieces (unless it is over 6 feet tall). Flocked trees are acceptable and can be recycled.

If you live in a multi-family complex, contact your management company or HOA for the designated tree drop-off location. This location is typically in the garage area or by the recycling bins.

### DECEMBER FREE HOLIDAY EXCESS TRASH COLLECTION

Had a party? No worries! EDCO offers free excess trash collection for three weeks during the December holiday season (December 26th to January 15th). During that time, in addition to your weekly trash placed in the grey cart, you may temporarily place excess trash in your old standard-size cans and/or in plastic bags. No loose material will be accepted.

Received lots of gifts from Santa? Don't forget to recycle your shipping and gift boxes by placing them in your blue cart(s). As for large empty gift and cardboard boxes, flatten them and place them in or next to your blue recycling cart(s) for collection. If you are a good recycler and need more blue carts, call EDCO. They are free!

### MANDATORY RECYCLING

AB 1826, Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (MORE) established statewide regulations for recycling organic waste. Starting January 1, 2019, the current thresholds will become more rigorous and will affect many more businesses and multi-family (apartments, condominiums and townhome) complexes.



**BUSINESSES:** Starting January 1, 2019, businesses that generate 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste (trash) per week will be required to arrange for organic waste recycling services. If you are an owner or manager of a business that is currently required or will soon be required to recycle organics, please contact your hauler and/or your management company to arrange for services.

**Multi-Family (M/F) Residential complexes including apartments, townhomes and condominiums:** Starting January 1, 2019, M/F complexes that generate 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste (trash) per week will be required to arrange for green waste/yard waste recycling services. If you are an owner or manager of a M/F complex with 5 or more units, you are required to recycle green waste. Please contact EDCO at 310.540.2977 to arrange for services ASAP. If your landscaper is hauling your yard waste, make sure it is taken to a recycling facility and ask for documentation.



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HOLIDAY SHOPPING BY THE SEA RIGHT HERE IN RPV

Stop by the Point Vicente Interpretive Center gift shop for a one of a kind holiday shopping experience.

Our gift shop features décor, stocking stuffers, books, home accessories, and plush toys that celebrate the coastal beauty of our peninsula paradise.

Avoid the crowds at malls, then step outside, watch for whales, and enjoy the sunset!



The Point Vicente Interpretive Center and Gift Shop is open 10am to 5pm daily. **For Your Shopping convenience we will be open until 9pm on December 11.** We are closed Thanksgiving Day, December 24th and 25th, and New Year's Day. Located at 31501 Palos Verdes Drive West, next to the Point Vicente Lighthouse.

STREET SWEEPING DAY CHANGES

If your regular street sweeping days are on December 25th or January 1st, (the 4th or 1st Tuesday of each month), they will be delayed by one day due to the holidays. Sweeping will be performed on Wednesday, December 26th and January 2nd.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

EDCO 310.540.2977 or [www.RPVrecycles.com](http://www.RPVrecycles.com)



**December 2018:** No service on Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day. There will be a one-day delay in collection for Tuesday through Friday routes.

**January 2019:** No service on Tuesday, January 1, New Year's Day. There will be a one-day delay in collection for Tuesday through Friday routes.

Questions, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or [www.rpvrecycles.com](http://www.rpvrecycles.com). Leave all containers at the curb no later than 7am on collection day.

**In accordance with the City's Municipal Code, remove all empty containers no later than 10pm on collection day. Empty carts MUST NOT be left on the street overnight. Help keep our City Streets Beautiful!**

CITY HALL PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall Main Line

City Manager's Office  
City Clerk's Office  
Finance  
Community Development  
Human Resources  
Public Works  
Recreation and Parks  
Building & Safety Division  
Code Enforcement



310.544.5200  
310.544.5207  
310.544.5217  
310.544.5304  
310.544.5228  
310.544.5327  
310.544.5252  
310.544.5260  
310.544.5280  
310.544.5281

CITY COUNCIL

**Jerry V. Duhovic, Mayor**  
Email: [jerry.duhovic@rpvca.gov](mailto:jerry.duhovic@rpvca.gov)  
**John Cruikshank, Mayor Pro Tem**  
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CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
NEWSLETTER



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LEAF ME ALONE!

GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS PROHIBITED JANUARY 1

Effective January 1, 2019, the use of gas-powered blowers in single-family residential neighborhoods will be prohibited in the City. Only standard electric blowers—such as hand held, corded, and cordless blowers will be allowed. The purpose of this prohibition is to minimize impacts to the environment and preserve the semi-rural ambiance of the City. As a reminder, the use or operation of any type of permitted weed and debris blower is only allowed to occur between the hours of 8am and 5pm Monday through Friday, or 9am and 4pm on Saturday. The use or operation of any weed and debris blower is prohibited at all times on Sundays or federal holidays.



ARRESTED SPARK DEVELOPMENT



A spark of inspiration is wonderful, but stray sparks shooting out of your chimney can be extremely dangerous. An exterior spark arrester prevents sparks from igniting your roof or nearby trees. The California Residential Code requires that all chimneys attached to any appliance or fireplace that burns solid fuel shall be equipped with an approved spark arrester. If your chimney doesn't have a spark arrester, or if you need more information, search for Chapter 10 (R1003.9.2) of the CA Residential Code, or contact the City's Community Development Department.

RESIDENTIAL "NO-BURN ALERT" SEASON

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) will issue 24-hour "No Burn Alerts" on November 1st for residential fireplaces and outdoor fire pits and wood stoves when stagnant weather raises fine particulate pollution to unhealthy levels. Alerts will be issued only during winter months (November through February) for specific areas or the entire South Coast Air Basin, depending on forecast conditions. During an alert, AQMD requires that residents refrain from all indoor and outdoor wood burning. A list of frequently-asked questions (FAQs) about "No-Burn Alerts" is available on the AQMD website at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/programs/community/cbyb---faq>. Residents may sign-up to receive these alerts directly via e-mail at <http://aqmd.enviroflash.info/>.



DECK THE HALLS, TRIM THE TREES, AND CLEAN OUT THOSE SWALES

That third option doesn't sound like Holiday fun—and it isn't. But the rainy season will be here before you know it, so now is a good time to check and clean out your drainage swales.

Drainage swales, also referred to as "bench drains" or "V-ditches," tend to become filled with leaves, overgrown vegetation, and debris over the course of the year. If you have a drainage swale on your property, it's your responsibility to maintain it so that it functions properly. Improperly maintained drainage swales interfere with proper drainage flows that can result in property damage caused by slope failure, erosion, or excess storm-water runoff. Make sure your drainage swales are clear of debris and overgrown vegetation to ensure proper drainage flow.

As an additional reminder, the City's Municipal Code does not permit the construction of any structure within or above a drainage swale, or on a slope on or equal to 35% or greater. It's always a good idea to contact the Community Development Department before starting any project to determine if approvals and/or permits will be required.

LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB?

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes Recreation and Parks Department is hiring! We are currently accepting applications for Recreation Leaders to work in our parks, community centers, and programs. No previous experience is required, but candidates should have a passion for service and the outdoors, and excellent customer service and communication skills. The Recreation and Parks Department provides high-quality parks and facilities and offers a variety of safe, affordable, and innovative programs that enhance the well-being of the community. For more information, contact the Recreation and Parks Department at [parks@rpvca.gov](mailto:parks@rpvca.gov) or 310.544.5260 or visit [www.rpvca.gov](http://www.rpvca.gov).

